

THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claims 1 - 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (previously presented): A virtual space presentation apparatus comprising:

a virtual space image generation unit adapted to generate an image of a virtual space, according to a viewpoint position and a visual axis direction which are set in the virtual space;

a map image generation unit adapted to generate a map image representing a region around the viewpoint position, according to the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction;

a view image displaying unit adapted to display the generated image of the virtual space;

a map image displaying unit adapted to display the generated map image;
and

a viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit, which is used to operate the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, and which is fixed in a position on said map image displaying unit.

14. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said map image generation unit generates an image of a plan-view map that looks down the region around the viewpoint position from a position immediately above the viewpoint.

15. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said map image generation unit generates the map image as a bird's eye view.

16. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit is fixed in a position on a display screen of said map image displaying unit,

the position of said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit on the display screen is a viewpoint position of a map image displayed on the display screen, and

said map image displaying unit controls the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, by scrolling a map image displayed on the display screen according to operation to said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit.

17. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit includes a trackball, a joystick, and a track pad.

18. (previously presented): A virtual space display method comprising:

- generating an image of a virtual space, according to a viewpoint position and a visual axis direction which are set in the virtual space;
- generating a map image representing a region around the viewpoint position, according to the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction;
- displaying the generated image of the virtual space by a view image displaying unit;
- displaying the generated map image by a map image displaying unit; and
- setting the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, according to an instruction input from a viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit fixed in a position on said map image displaying unit.

19. (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer execute a virtual space display method of claim 18.